

Y. Betts, Brother Grant Clark, and Brother Albert Brown; and Deaconess: Sister Margaret Wilkinson, Sister Hattie Williams-Cockrell, and Sister Eugene Brown.

Rev. A. L. Hill was elected pastor in the early 30s and remained until 1943 along with the Deacons: Brother Wesley Liddell, Brother Tom Sutton, Brother Nathaniel Fuller, Brother Joe Mixon, Brother Abel Hinton, Brother William Tyler, and Brother Miles Applewhite; and Deaconess: Sister Margaret Wilkinson, Sister Josephine Sutton, Sister Alberta Applewhite, Sister Estella Williams, Sister Ophelia Jennings, Sister Ida Long, and Sister Nancy Wilson.

Rev. T. W. Richardson was elected pastor in 1943 and in 1968 the church was reerected in 1969 after the death of Rev. Richardson. The board of Trustees were: Brother James Hunter, Brother LaHue Parker, and Brother Foster Green; and Deacons: Brother Arthur Phipps, Brother Otha Spraggs, Brother Foster Green, Brother J. S. Gresham Sr., Brother LaHue "Shock" Parker, Brother C.R. "Baby" Campbell, Brother Solon Williams, Brother Willie "Hot" Moore, Brother Coleman Washington Sr., and Brother Joe Moore; and Deaconess: Sister Estella Williams, Sister Alice Green, Sister Zenobia Campbell, Sister Mary Young, Sister Mary Lee Moore, Sister Minnie Ross, Sister Mary Singleton, and Sister Aretha Liddell.

Rev. W. L. Smith Jr. was elected pastor in July of 1969. Trustees were: Brother James Hunter, Brother LaHue Parker, Brother Foster Green, Brother J. C. Quinn, and Brother L. C. Quinn; Deacons: Brother Otha Spraggs, Brother LaHue Parker, Brother Solon Williams, Brother J. S. Gresham, Sr., Brother Bishop Hopkin, Brother Arthur Phipps, Brother Tommie White, Brother Bobby Love, Brother Coleman Washington Jr., and Brother Joe Moore; and Deaconess: Sister Estella Williams, Sister Alice Green, Sister Zenobia Campbell, Sister Estella Phipps, Sister Doshi Love, Sister Dossier Petty, Sister Candace Hill, Sister May Lee Moore, Sister Betty Quinn, Sister Sally Foote, Sister Mable Jackson, Sister Annie Foote, Sister Dorothy Banks, Sister Aretha Liddell, Sister Genette M. Smith, Sister Bobbie White, and Sister Charlene Love.

Rev. W. L. Smith Jr. retired and became Pastor Emeritus in September of 1992. Rev. C. J. Nelson served as Interim Pastor from December of 1992 through June of 1993. Board of Trustees were: Rev. Cleve McDowell, Sister Mary Phillips, Sister Jessie First, Sister Shery Nelson, Brother James Shoulders, and Brother Edward Triplett.

Rev. Adoris Turner was elected pastor in September of 1994 to November of 1997. Broad of Trustees were: Sister Mary Phillips, Sister Charlis Miller, Sister Sheryl Nelson, Brother James Pointer, Brother Coleman Washington, Jr., Brother Solon Williams, and Brother Booker T. Black, Jr.; and Deaconess: Sister Aretha Liddell, Sister Susie Staples, Sister Canary Pointer, Sister Dorothy Banks, Sister Charlene Love, and Sister Genette M. Smith. Rev. Jesse Gresham served as Interior Pastor from 1997 to 1998. Pastor Martha Shoulders served as his assistant.

Rev. Scotty Williams of Greenwood was elected as pastor in September of 1998 for a very brief period. No significant changes were made to the church under his leadership. Rev. Perry Grant of Greenville was elected as the pastor in 1999, where he remained for less than a year.

Rev. Jesse Gresham was elected as pastor in February of 2000, where he serves as Pastor and Musician. Rev. Martha Shoulders served as Youth Pastor. Two new musicians were elected: Charlie "Chuck" Allen of Clarksdale and Everette Walton of Drew; a fellowship hall was added; the Youth Ministry was assigned the second Sunday of each month; the Men's Ministry was assigned the fourth Sunday of each month; and two members were called into the ministry: Deacon Bobby Love and Brother Robert Hunter. Rev. Bobby Love now serves as superintendent of Education and Rev. Robert Hunter now serves as Youth Minister. The Deacons were: Brother James Pointer, Brother Coleman Washington, Jr., Brother John Johnson, Sr., Brother Melvin Mins, Brother Howard Williams, Brother Lacy Wilson, Brother Booker Black, Brother James Dixon, and Brother Willie Hooper; the Trustees were: Sister Annie Round, Rev. Bobby Love, Brother James Shoulders, Sister Mary Phillips and Brother Edward Triplett; and the Deaconess Board consisted of: Sister Aretha Liddell, Sister Dorothy Williams, Sister Minnie Spraggs, Sister Sisce Staples, Sister Ora Washington, Sister Dorothy Banks, Sister Bobbie White, Sister Charlene Love, Sister Essie Johnson, Sister Earnestine Dixon, Sister Gloria Williams, and Sister Sharon Hunter.

Rev. Gresham served for fourteen years. In 2014 Rev. Bobby Love was elected Interim Pastor until October 2015. Then, Rev. William "Ray" Blackmon was elected as pastor in November of 2015. Pastor Blackmon's installation was on February 14, 2016. Under his short tenure two musicians were added: Brother Seneca Owens, who played on the first, third, and fourth Sundays and Bishop Kimberly Randle, who played on the second and fifth Sundays and during this same time two tellurones and a surveillance system were installed. Rev. Bobby Love serves as Director of Christian Education and Rev. Robert Hunter serves as the Youth Minister. Deacons James Pointer is the chairperson of the Deacon Board and Deacon Howard Williams is the co-chairperson. The other Deacons are: Deacon Roy Stanford, Deacon James Dixon, Deacon Willie Hooper (who resigned in May of 2017) and Deacon Booker Black, Jr. There are two deacons in training: Brother John Henry Johnson, Jr. and Brother Eddie Horton. The trustees are: Sister Charlis Miller-Criss, Sister Bobbie White, Sister Sheryl Nelson, Sister Karen Mims, and Deacon Roy Stanford.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the growth of Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church for its longevity and dedication to serving others.

#### HONORING MR. JAMES T. BRETT

#### HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2018*

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James T. Brett, President and CEO of the New England Council, on receiving the Éire Society of Boston's 2018 Gold Medal Award.

Since 1937, the Éire Society of Boston has celebrated the rich history of the Irish experience and the many important contributions that Irish-Americans have made to our country

and around the world. In keeping with tradition and the long list of distinguished recipients, the Éire Society has chosen to honor a truly inspiring individual this year.

A lifelong resident of Dorchester, Massachusetts, James "Jim" Brett has dedicated his life to serving others and raising awareness for critical issues such as accessible healthcare, education, economic empowerment, and disability rights. After fifteen years in the Massachusetts State Legislature taking on a number of leadership roles such as Chairman of the Joint Committee on Taxation and Joint Committee on Banking, Mr. Brett joined The New England Council where he has continued to promote a strong economic environment and quality of living in the region.

Since leaving office in 1996, Mr. Brett remains a leading voice in advocacy for individuals with disabilities both in New England and nationally, serving as a Chairman of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities, a member of the National Council on Disability, and Chair of the Governor's Commission on Intellectual Disability and Massachusetts Disabled Persons Protection Commission.

Across Massachusetts, we are proud to call James Brett our neighbor and grateful for his continued service to the disadvantaged among us. As the Éire Society of Boston gathers on April 7th to celebrate this important achievement, I call on Congress to recognize the many accomplishments of Mr. Brett's distinguished career and the impact that his tireless efforts have had on so many in New England and nationwide.

#### HONORING DEXTER M. BROOKINS

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 26, 2018*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable public servant, LTC Dexter M. Brookins who entered the service on 11 August 1987 as a Private in the Infantry. LTC Brookins received his commission from the United States Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1997 from Jackson State University as a Distinguished Military Graduate.

Previous assignments include Launcher and Fire Control Platoon Leader for F/1-43 ADA in Kunson, S. Korea from July 1997 to June 1998 and Battery Executive Officer for B/1-43 ADA in Suwon, S. Korea from June 1998 to November 1998, and D/2-1 ADA from November 1998 to July 1999. Major Brookins also served as the Aide-de-Camp for the Commanding General (1-Star General) at Joint Task Force-6 from July 1999 to January 2001. In August 2001, he was assigned to the 31st ADA BDE from which he later deployed to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from February 2002 to September 2002. He later assumed command of A/3-2 ADA in December 2002. He later deployed Alpha Battery to Kuwait/Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from March to May 2003.

In April 2004, LTC Brookins was assigned to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Army Staff (JCS/OSD/ARSTAFF) Intern Program (a three year program). As a JCS/OSD/ARSTAFF Intern, LTC